

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OIC-02 SS-15
NSC-05 SP-02 HA-05 /092 W
-----040265 260849Z/10

R 241634Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 839
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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USEC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO, IT
SUBJECT: US RELATIONSHIP WITH ILO

REF: (A) STATE 38223 (B) ROME 1873 (C) ROME 1468

1. COUNSELLOR CARLO CALIA, CHIEF OF MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF FONMIN'S EMIGRATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE, WAS MOST RECEPTIVE TO LABOR OFFICER'S PRESENTATION OF POINTS MADE IN REF (A). HE EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY THAT ITALY HOPED TO WORK FOR AND ENCOURAGE U.S. REENTRY INTO THE ILO. HE REGRETTED THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL MIGLUOLO HAD NOT REITERATED THIS KEY ELEMENT OF ITALIAN POLICY, BUT HAD DEALT ONLY WITH THE NARROW POINT AT HAND IN RESPONDING TO THE LABOR ATTACHE'S DEMARCHE ON GOVERNING BODY (GB) STRUCTURE (REF C). CALIA ENCOURAGED CONTINUING COMMUNICATION OF US VIEWPOINTS ON ILO MATTERS AND ASSURED LABOFF THAT LATEST US DEMARCH WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN NEW INSTRUCTION TO THE FIELD.

2. ON GB STRUCTURE, CALIA REITERATED MIGLUOLO'S COMMENT (REF C) THAT IT WAS TOO BAD THE US DEMARCHE CAME TOO LATE. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE EC-9 PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS ADOPTED NEARLY UNANIMOUSLY BY OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED MARKET ECONOMY (IMEC) COUNTRIES, EXCEPT JAPAN HE BELIEVED, HAD PRODUCED SOME POSITIVE RESULTS. THE RESPONSE FROM THE HITHERTO MONOLITHIC GROUP OF 77 (G-77) WAS QUITE VARIED. ASIANS WERE IN FAVOR, AFRICANS AGAINST AND OTHERS HAD VARYING ATTITUDES. A HEALTHY EVOLUTION, CALIA THOUGHT, WHICH MIGHT EVEN RESULT IN THE STRUCTURE REMAINING AS IS FOR SOME TIME. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE OF AUTHENTIC TRADE UNION AND PRIVATE EMPLOYER STRENGTH IN THE ILO, BUT, DRAWING ON HIS DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ETHIOPIA, EASTERN EUROPE AND URUGUAY, CONCLUDED THAT PRESENT TRENDS AND REALITIES SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT DICTATORSHIPS WOULD CONTINUE IN MOST OF THE WORLD, AND HAVE TO BE LIVED WITH, ALTHOUGH TRADE UNIONS WERE ABLE TO PRESERVE SOME LIMITED AUTONOMY AND BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON MANY OF THOSE IN THE THIRD WORLD. IN ANY EVENT, HE THOUGHT THE ILO COULD SURVIVE AND ADAPT TO CHANGES IN STRUCTURE WITHOUT GREAT LOSS IN EFFECTIVENESS IN PURSUING ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSES, BUT COULD DEFINITELY NOT SURVIVE THE LOSS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PRESERVE ANY SUCH EFFECTIVENESS.

3. ON THE OTHER ISSUES (DUE PROCESS, EVEN-HANDEDNESS AND DEPOLITICIZATION), CALIA THOUGHT MUCH MORE COULD BE DONE. HE SUGGESTED THAT NO ONE REALLY BELIEVED THE US WOULD LEAVE THE ILO, ERGO THE 1977 CONVENTION RESULTS. NOW THAT IT HAD ACTUALLY HAPPENED, A SOBERER ATTITUDE PREVAILED. HE PREDICTED THAT THE 1978 CONVENTION WOULD BE MUCH "QUIETER".

4. COMMENT: CALIA'S ATTITUDE AND COMMENTS WERE HEARTENING, BUT SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH A GRAIN OF SALT. AS POINTED OUT

IN PREVIOUS CABLES, ITALY'S ILO POLICY HAS BEEN LARGELY DETERMINED ON THE SPOT BY ITALY'S GENEVA REPRESENTATIVE, ROBERTO AGO, WHO GENERALLY SEEKS COMPROMISES WITH THE THIRD WORLD. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE ON WHICH TO BASE HOPE FOR A CHANGE IN THIS PRACTICE.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decapton Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME03529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780088-1271
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780216/aaaaandl.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 52bf38d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 38223, 78 ROME 1873, 78 ROME 1468
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3485408
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US RELATIONSHIP WITH ILO
TAGS: ELAB, IT, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/52bf38d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014